

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawings include a full set of corrected drawings to comply with the formal objections in the Official Action.

Sheet 1 includes changes to FIG. 1. Reference numeral 100 is corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Sheet 2 includes changes to FIG. 2. The cross-hatching for plastic is corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Sheet 3 includes changes to FIG. 3. Reference numeral 200 is corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Sheet 4 includes changes to FIG. 4. The cross-hatching for plastic is corrected as suggested by the Examiner. With respect to reference numeral 38, a lead line is provided. Applicant believes the Examiner was referring to the need for a lead line for reference numeral 38 in FIG. 6, not FIG. 4.

Sheet 5 includes changes to FIG. 5. The cross-hatching for plastic is corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Sheet 6 includes changes to FIG. 6. The cross-hatching for plastic is corrected as suggested by the Examiner. A lead line is added for reference numeral 38.

Sheet 7 includes changes to FIG. 7. Reference numeral 300 is corrected as suggested by the Examiner. The cross-hatching for plastic is corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Sheet 8 includes changes to FIG. 8. Reference numeral 400 is corrected as suggested by the Examiner. The cross-hatching for plastic is corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiners Spahn and Chilcott for their courtesy in a telephone interview on November 29. Claim 1 was discussed, but no agreement was reached on specific amendments.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-16 and 29 were rejected. Claims 30-35 are added, and withdrawn claims 22-26 and 28 are canceled to avoid additional claim fees. New claims 30-35 all read on the elected species of FIG. 1. Support for claims 30-35 is provided in FIG. 1.

The drawings were objected to because of underlining of reference numerals 100, 200, 300 and 400, the form of the cross-hatching for the plastic accessories 2, and 4-8, and a lead line for item 38. The Drawings are amended as suggested in the Action. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to, requiring a new title. The title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 10 and 12 were objected to. Regarding claim 5, the Action states that it was unclear whether the additional portion is part of the soffit receiver or siding accessory receiver. The amendment to claim 5 makes clear that an additional plurality of vent apertures are provided. For example, FIG. 1 shows additional apertures 50. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 6, the Action states that it is unclear whether the additional portion is the same as the vent component. The amendment to claim 6 clarifies that the additional portion of said trim accessory includes a vent component. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was objected to because it was unclear whether the vent apertures of claim 10 are the same as or different from the vent apertures of claim 8. The amendment to claim 10 clarifies that the vent component includes an additional plurality of vent apertures, which are in addition to the apertures of claim 8. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 10 is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 was objected to because of a missing period. The period has been inserted. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-14, 19, 20 and 29 are amended to change the term, "aesthetic" to "ornamental" to more definitely claim the subject matter of these claims. By canceling the term, "aesthetic," the amendment clarifies that, although the ornamental component can be a non-functional shape, the ornamental component does not have to be subjectively aesthetically pleasing to any given individual. Support for the amendment is provided in paragraph [0030], which states, "The aesthetic component may comprise a variety of shapes or forms, including the arc-shape of cove molding 70, or alternatively a crown-molding shape . . ." One of ordinary skill in the art understands that these are examples of ornamental shapes, regardless of whether they are subjectively aesthetically pleasing to any given individual.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by US 6,421,964 (Schiedegger et al.). Amended claim 1 recites:

an additional channel portion of said trim accessory connected between said soffit receiver component and said siding accessory receiver component, the additional channel portion having first and second side walls connected to each other by a connecting wall, the side walls and connecting wall of the additional channel portion distinct from said side walls and connecting wall of said soffit receiver component and distinct from said side walls and connecting wall of said siding accessory receiver component, so the soffit receiver component and said siding accessory receiver component are separated from each other by the additional channel portion, one of the side walls of the additional channel portion being connected to one of the side walls of the soffit receiver component, one of the side walls of the additional channel portion having a plurality of vent apertures disposed therethrough, said

vent apertures located in a separate plane from a plane in which the attachment apertures are located

An example of one embodiment is shown in FIG. 1, where a three-sided channel portion 60 is connected between a siding accessory receiver component 40 and a soffit receiver component 10; and vent apertures 62 are located in a separate plane from a plane in which the attachment apertures 20.

Schiedegger et al. neither disclose nor suggest the features of claim 1. According to the Action, Schiedegger shows a soffit receiver component (members 28, 34 defining channel 31 in FIG. 4) and a siding accessory receiver component (V-Groove defining channel 29 in FIG. 4), with attachment apertures 50 and vent apertures 49. The apertures 49 and 50 in Schiedegger are all coplanar. Schiedegger neither discloses nor suggests a set of vent apertures in a separate plane from a plane in which attachment apertures 49 are located.

Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Schiedegger. Claims 4 and 6 are dependent on Schiedegger, and are not anticipated by Schiedegger for at least the same reasons. The rejection of claims 1, 4 and 6 should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's comments, Applicants have canceled the recitation from claim 1 regarding the vent apertures being hidden from view. Applicants submit that this recitation is not necessary for patentability of amended claim 1, and Applicants repudiate any previous comment indicating that the visibility of the vent apertures is important to the patentability of claim 1.

Claim 13 is amended to recite:

a multiple-sided vent component connected to the soffit receiver component and located intermediate said soffit receiver component and said siding accessory receiver component, wherein said vent component includes vent apertures, said vent component only contacting the soffit receiver component at a single connecting edge; and

a multiple-sided ornamental component distinct from the vent component and located intermediate said soffit receiver component and siding accessory receiver component, wherein said ornamental component has a only a first end directly connected to the vent component and only a second end directly connected to

the siding accessory receiver component, the second end opposite the first end.

An example is shown in FIG. 1, where item 60 is a multiple sided vent component, and item 70 is an ornamental component.

Schiedegger neither discloses nor suggests these features. The Action refers to apertures 49 as the vent apertures. Even assuming that apertures 49 are vent apertures of a vent component between a soffit receiver component (members 28, 34 defining channel 31 in FIG. 4) and a siding accessor receiver component (V-Groove defining channel 29 in FIG. 4), and assuming that plate 24 is ornamental, Schiedegger neither discloses nor suggests a vent component contacting the soffit receiver component at a single connecting edge. Nor does Schiedegger suggest a multiple-sided ornamental component distinct from the vent component, where the ornamental component has a only a first end directly connected to the vent component and a second end directly connected to the siding accessory receiver component, the second end opposite the first end.

Therefore, amended claim 13 is not anticipated by Schiedegger.

Claims 8, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Herb (US 4,102,587). Claim 8 is amended to recite:

a three-sided soffit receiver component . . .

a three-sided siding accessory receiver component . . .

a three-sided vent component connected between said soffit receiver component and said siding accessory receiver component, the three-sided vent component having three walls distinct from walls of said soffit receiver component and distinct from walls of said siding accessory receiver component, so the soffit receiver component and said siding accessory receiver component are separated from each other by the vent component, the three-sided vent component having a first plurality of vent apertures disposed therethrough,

An example is shown in FIG. 1, where item 18 is a three-sided soffit receiver component, item 48 is a three sided siding accessor receiver component, and item 60 is a three sided vent

component having walls distinct from walls of the soffit receiver component and the walls of the siding accessory receiver component.

Herb neither discloses nor suggests this structure. Assuming for purpose of argument members 4, 1 and 9 of Herb are the soffit receiver component, and members 5, 2 and 6 are the siding accessory receiver component, as alleged in the Action, Herb does not have three remaining walls distinct from walls 4, 1, 9 and distinct from walls 5, 2 and 6.

Therefore, amended claim 8 is not anticipated by Herb. Claim 10 is canceled, obviating the rejection thereof. Claim 12 is dependent on claim 8, and should be patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 8. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8 and 12 is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schiedegger et al. Claim 14 is canceled, obviating the rejection thereof.

Claims 3 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schiedegger et al. in view of Pulte (US 2002/0124485). Pulte was cited for disclosing a trim accessory having a crown molding. However, Pulte fails to cure the deficiencies of Schiedegger with respect to the features of claim 1, which are incorporated by reference in claim 3. Pulte neither discloses nor suggests "one of the side walls of the additional channel portion having a plurality of vent apertures disposed therethrough, said vent apertures located in a separate plane from a plane in which the attachment apertures are located".

Also, Pulte fails to cure the deficiency of Schiedegger with respect to the features of claim 13. Pulte neither discloses nor suggests, "a multiple-sided vent component connected to the soffit receiver component and located intermediate said soffit receiver component and said siding accessory receiver component, wherein said vent component includes vent apertures, said vent component contacting the soffit receiver component at a single connecting edge". Therefore, claims 3 and 29 should be patentable.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schiedegger et al. in view of Bachman. Bachman was cited for disclosing a PVC bracket, but fails to cure the

deficiencies of Schiedegger et al. with respect to the features of base claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Schiedegger et al. and Bachman fails to disclose or suggest claim 2, and the rejection of claim 2 should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schiedegger et al. in view of Leichtfried. Leichtfried was cited for teaching "at least one of said bottom portion or connecting portion of said soffit receiver component or said front portion or connecting portion of said siding accessory receiver component includes said vent apertures. However, Leichtfried fails to cure the deficiencies of Shiedegger with respect to the features of amended claim 1, incorporated by reference into claim 5. Leictfried neither discloses nor suggests, "one of the side walls of the additional channel portion having a plurality of vent apertures disposed therethrough, said vent apertures located in a separate plane from a plane in which the attachment apertures are located". Also, Leichtfried neither discloses nor suggests that the walls of the additional channel portion are distinct from the walls of the soffit receiving component and distinct from the walls of the siding accessory receiving component, as required by claim 1. Therefore, claim 5 should be allowable.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected as being unpatentable over Pulte in view of Shiedegger, and claim 2 is rejected over the combination of Pulte, Shiedegger and Bachman. Claims 1-3 require:

one of the side walls of the additional channel portion having a plurality of vent apertures disposed therethrough, said vent apertures located in a separate plane from a plane in which the attachment apertures are located

The Action admits that Pulte fails to disclose the attachment portion with attachment apertures or additional portion with vent apertures. Shiedegger was cited for teaching these features. However, the combined teachings of Pulte, Shiedegger and Bachman neither disclose nor suggest that the vent apertures are located in a separate plane from a plane in which the attachment apertures are located. Shiedegger's apertures are all located in the same plane, which is natural because, regardless of the PTO's characterization of Shiedegger's apertures, Shiedegger never suggests that his apertures serve a venting function, and positions all his apertures in the same plane. This is not a coincidence. Shiedegger positioned his apertures where they will serve

their intended purpose: to attach the device to a building structure. Shiedegger never suggests locating a plurality of apertures in a separate plane as now claimed in claim 1, because Shiedegger's dental molding attachment structure does not require venting. Bachman was cited for teaching a PVC accessory as claimed in claim 2, but also fails to teach the additional channel portion as claimed in claim 1 and incorporated in claim 2.

Therefore, claims 1-3 are not subject to rejection over any combination of Pulte, Shiedegger and Bachman, and should be allowed.

Claim 15 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Herb et al. in view of Williamson (US 5,956,914). Claim 15 is dependent on claim 8, and incorporates the features of claim 8 by reference. Williamson was cited for teaching a one piece plastic extruded article. However, Williamson fails to cure the deficiency of Herb with respect to the features of claim 8, as discussed above. Therefore, claim 15 should be allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8.

Claim 16 was rejected § 103 as being unpatentable over Pulte in view of Lichtfried. Amended claim 16 recites:

a vent component including first and second parallel edges and a connecting edge that connects the first and second parallel edges, the first parallel edge connected to the bottom portion of the soffit receiver component, the vent component having a plurality of vent apertures on one of the first and second parallel edges;

a crown molding directly connected to the parallel edge of the vent component having the vent apertures, with the vent apertures facing a back surface of the crown molding;

The combination of Pulte and Lichtfried neither discloses nor suggests these features. The combination neither discloses nor suggests vent apertures on a parallel edge of a vent component facing a crown molding. Therefore the rejection of claim 16 over Pulte in view of Lichtfried should be withdrawn.

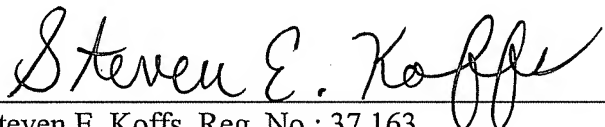
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

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